

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CHULA VISTA BAR CLOSED FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

**Chula Vista** – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control has revoked the liquor license of Joey's Bar, 415 Broadway in Chula Vista. The action was the result of repeated sales of alcoholic beverage to minors.

Between September of 1997 and January of 2000, the bar was caught selling to minors a total of three times. A fourth incident in June of 2001 resulted in ABC filing another accusation, which will not be prosecuted because the third violation will cause the license to be revoked.

ABC San Diego District Office Administrator Steve Ernst said, "The repeated sales to minors cannot be ignored. The potential for a tragedy involving a young person drinking and driving must take precedence over the privilege of selling alcohol to the public." Ernst noted that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than adults in general.

Under state law, any licensee caught selling alcoholic beverages to minors three times in three years may have their license revoked. In September of '97, a 17-year old female minor decoy under the direction of the Chula Vista Police Department was able to buy a drink at the bar, resulting in a 15 day liquor license suspension.

On November of '97, another sale to a 17-year-old male decoy resulted in a 25-day suspension. The third violation involving a male and a female decoy, both 19-years-old occurred in January of 2000, resulting in ABC's decision to revoke the license. A fourth incident occurred in June of 2001 with an 18-year-old decoy.

The owner of the bar, Evelyn Jones, appealed the revocation decision through an administrative law judge, the ABC Appeals Board, and the Fourth District Court of Appeal, delaying ABC's revocation action until today.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's cabinet.